BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

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- **There was no change in the Consumer Price Index in B.C. in July**
- **Retail sales in B.C inched up 1.3% in June**
- **Visitor entries to Canada via B.C. climbed 2.3% in June**

Prices

- **B.C.'s Consumer Price Index (CPI) was unchanged in July compared to the same month of 2012, as downward pressure eased following three straight months of declines, which were partly due to the elimination of the HST on April 1st.** A 5.0% spike in energy prices offset drops in five of the eight major components of CPI. Excluding energy, prices fell 0.3%.

  Consumers paid less for food (-1.1%), with prices falling for the fourth straight month. The decline was primarily due to lower prices for food purchased from restaurants (-4.0%). The price of food purchased from stores (+0.3%) edged up at the lowest rate recorded in 2013, as increases to meat (+0.6%) and fresh fruit (+5.5%) and vegetable (+6.7%) prices moderated. Consumers paid less for non-alcoholic beverages (-5.7%), other food products (-3.1%), coffee & tea (-0.5%) and dairy products & eggs (-0.2%).

  Shelter prices (-0.8%) continued to fall, as the costs associated with owning a home (-2.2%) dipped. The cost of water, fuel & electricity (+2.7%) increased modestly, as lower fuel oil & other fuel (-3.2%) prices dampened the effect of increases in piped gas (+6.4%), water (+6.1%), and electricity (+0.7%) prices. Household operations & furnishing prices were flat following a 0.3% dip in June.

  Clothing & footwear costs were up 1.3% after registering no changes in the previous two months. Clothing prices increased 2.4% on the heels of nine straight months of decline, with men's (+3.5%), children's (+3.4%), and women's (+1.1%) clothing prices all on the rise. Footwear (-0.1%) prices dipped for the first time since December 2012 (-0.7%). Transportation costs were up 2.7%, as gasoline (+7.3%), public transit (+3.7%), and inter-city transportation prices (+4.0%) soared.

  Health & personal care (-2.9%) costs fell for the eighth straight month. Medicinal & pharmaceutical prices (-6.9%) continued to register notable declines, alongside tumbling personal care (-4.6%) prices. Recreation, education & reading (-0.3%) prices dropped for the fifth month in a row, as recreation costs fell 1.5%. However, education prices continued to climb steadily (+2.0%). Alcoholic beverages & tobacco (+0.8%) prices rose, with consumers paying more for alcoholic beverage (+1.5%) as tobacco (+0.4%) product prices slipped for the fourth month in a row.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Nationally, prices climbed 1.3% in July, slightly higher than the increase observed in June (+1.2%).** Consumers in Manitoba (+3.0%) continued to see the largest jump in prices due to increases in the provincial tax rate, followed by P.E.I (+2.3%), Alberta (+2.2%), and Newfoundland & Labrador (+2.0%). British Columbia was the only province where prices did not increase.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **Retail sales in British Columbia rose 1.3% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June, building on a 0.4% gain registered in May.** Sales by building materials, garden equipment & supplies dealers (+3.8%) increased at the fastest rate. Receipts at gasoline stations (+1.7%), and

Did you know...

The Vancouver-based site, Plenty of Fish, is one of the most popular online dating websites in the world, with over 2 billion page views monthly. *Data source: POF Blog (April 2012)*

sporting goods, hobby, book & music (+0.9%) and health & personal care (+0.8%) stores were up moderately. Miscellaneous store retailers (+0.3%) and motor vehicle & parts dealers (+0.1%) saw sales edge up slightly. Retailers of general merchandise (-0.6%), food & beverages (-0.5%), electronics & appliances (-0.4%), clothing & accessories (-0.2), and furniture & home furnishings (-0.2%) did not fare as well. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Wholesale sales in British Columbia dipped 0.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June, falling for the first time since December 2012.** Building material & supplies (-4.8%) sales, which fell for the third straight month, accounted for the largest share of the decline, which was furthered by slowing sales of food, beverage & tobacco (-3.5%) and motor vehicles (-12.0%). New motor vehicle parts (-0.4%) sales edged down slightly. Sales of personal & household goods (+2.5%), and machinery, equipment & supplies (+2.7%) increased steadily, following relatively small gains in May. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Labour

- **The number of British Columbians receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits fell to 50,530 (-0.5%, *seasonally adjusted*) in June.** There were fewer female recipients (-1.5%), while the number of male recipients edged up 0.3%.

  Nationally, the number of EI beneficiaries was up 0.9%. Alberta (+4.0%) and Quebec (+2.1%) saw the largest increases in recipients. Other provinces showing declines included Manitoba (-2.5%), Saskatchewan (-2.4%), and P.E.I. (-1.9%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **There were 30,400 (*unadjusted, 3-month moving average*) job vacancies in B.C. in May 2013, 700 more than in April.** There were 5.6 unemployed people for every job vacancy in May, an increase from 5.3 in April. The job vacancy rate in B.C. was 1.6%, which was above the national rate (1.5%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Waste Management

- **There were approximately 2.7 million tonnes of non-hazardous waste disposed of at public and private waste facilities in British Columbia in 2010, a decline of 5.5% from the volume in 2008.** The volume of non-residential sources of waste disposal processed, which accounts for 64% of the total, fell 7.9% to 1.7 million tonnes. Residential sources of waste for disposal totalled 953,761 tonnes (-0.7%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **There were 282 businesses in the waste management industry in British Columbia in 2010, an 11.0% increase over the number operating in 2008.** They employed 3,611 (+4.9%) workers, of whom 3,421 (+2.4%) had full-time jobs and 190 (+88.1%) worked part-time. Operating revenues climbed 4.9%, to $806.4 million. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Travel

- **The number of traveller entries to Canada via B.C. increased at the highest rate among all provinces (+2.3%, *seasonally adjusted*) in June.** Entries from the U.S. were up (+1.4%), with same-day (+0.2%) visits rising for the second month in a row, and the largest increase in overnight (+2.1%) visits since October 2012. A notable jump was seen in visitors from overseas (+5.2%), as entries from Europe (+9.0%) and other parts of the world (+7.5%) surged. Visits from Asia (+1.8%) rose at a slower pace. The number of Canadian residents returning from abroad was up (+1.8%), with a rise in both those returning from the U.S. (+1.8%) and the rest of the world (+1.7%).

  Nationally, visitor entries to Canada were down (-0.5%) from the previous month with a drop in both U.S. (-0.5%) and non-U.S. (-0.5%) visits. New Brunswick (+1.3%) and B.C. (+2.3%) were the only provinces with an increase in entries. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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Email transmission information service from BC Stats

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,650.0	0.9
Canada	35,141.5	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jun 2013	3,224	-4.5
Merchandise Exports - Jun 2013	2,643	-5.5
Retail Sales - Jun 2013	5,231	1.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jul 2013)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.0	0.2
Vancouver	0.1	0.4
Victoria	-0.3	0.0
Canada	1.3	1.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Jul 2013	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-11.7	
Labour Force - BC	2,473.7	-0.1
Employed - BC	2,309.0	-0.5
Unemployed - BC	164.7	5.2
		Jun 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.7	6.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Aug 21/2013	Aug 22/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.14	3.10
- 5 year	5.14	5.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Aug 21/2013	Aug 22/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0443	0.9929
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9548	1.0087
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jul 2013	% change on one year ago
BC	887.07	4.6
Canada	881.91	1.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

BC Community Health Atlas

On June 24th, the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), which partnered with a number of organizations including BC Stats, announced the release of the BC Community Health Atlas. Read about it here:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-06-28/BC_Community_Health_Atlas.aspx

2011 Census Profiles

We have added files for Health geographies, School Districts, College Regions and Ministry of Children and Family Development Regions. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Released last week by BC Stats

- Consumer Price Index, July 2013

To Release this week

- Business Indicators
- Tourism Sector Monitor

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